

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (original) A method of validating a customer in a retail membership club, the method comprising:

receiving a membership validation request, including identifying indicia, from a remote retail location, the identifying indicia being extracted from an identification document of a user by an identification document reader at the remote retail location;

querying a remote database for validation of the customer;

receiving an indication of membership validation from the database;

and

transmitting the indication to the remote retail location.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

if the indication is positive, transmitting information about the customer's purchase for storage in the remote database.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

if the indication is positive, providing the customer access to the remote retail location.

4. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification document is one or more members selected from the group consisting of a driver's license, a passport, a green card, a state issue identification card, and a federal identification card.

5. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the retail location is a fuel dispensing station.

6. (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the identification document is selected from the group consisting of a driver's license, a passport, a green card, a state issue identification card, a membership card and a federal identification card.

7. (new) A method of reducing drive-offs at a fuel dispensing station comprising:

receiving a fuel dispensing authorization request, including identifying indicia, from the fuel dispensing station, the identifying indicia being extracted from an identification document of a customer by an identification document reader of the fuel dispensing station;

querying a database of customer records for authorization of the customer;

receiving an indication of customer authorization from the database; and

transmitting the indication to the fuel dispensing station, and wherein the identification document is not used for prepayment.

8. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein an off-site terminal includes the database of customer records.

9. (new) The method of claim 7, further comprising transmitting a fuel dispenser enablement signal to the fuel dispensing station to enable a fuel dispenser at the fuel dispensing station, if the indication is positive.

10. (new) The method of claim 7, further comprising storing the identifying indicia at least until the customer completes fuel dispensing, if the indication is positive.

11. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising releasing the identifying indicia if the customer pays for the dispensed fuel.

12. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising storing the identifying indicia in the database if the customer does not pay for the dispensed fuel.

13. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising generating a drive-off ticket that includes the identifying indicia if the customer does not pay for the dispensed fuel.

14. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising providing the identifying indicia to law enforcement personnel if the customer does not pay for the dispensed fuel.

15. (new) The method of claim 7, further comprising notifying the customer of a reason for refusal of authorization, if the indication is negative.

16. (new) The method of claim 15, further comprising providing the customer information about a past due balance or outstanding warrant, if the indication is negative.

17. (new) A drive-off reducing indicia identifying identification document for use on a fuel dispenser at fuel dispensing stations, wherein the identification document comprises a magnetic strip containing identifying indicia provided by a customer, the magnetic strip being read by an identification document reader and queried against a database containing customer records, wherein said database transmits an indication to the fuel dispensing station enabling the fuel dispenser and allowing the customer to dispense fuel.

18. (new) The identification document of claim 17, wherein said identification document is not used for prepayment

19. (new) The identification document of claim 18, wherein the identification document is one or more members selected from the group consisting of a membership card, a driver's license, a passport, a green card, a state issue identification card, and a federal identification card.

20. (new) The identification document of claim 19, wherein the identification document is selected from the group consisting of a driver's license, a passport, a green card, a state issue identification card, and a federal identification card